

REMARKS

Prior to the present amendment, claims 1-6, 8-12, 14 and 15 were pending in the present application. By the present amendment, claim 2 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14 and 15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11, and 15 have been amended to remove the limitation of a "polyurethane sheet layer." Applicants reserve the right to prosecute this subject matter and the subject matter of cancelled claim 2 in an application that claims priority to the present application.

As an initial matter, Applicants submit that given that amended claim 1 has been indicated as allowable, Applicants request joinder of claim 8-11 which expressly depend from (either directly or indirectly) and include all of the limitations of claim 1. As stated by MPEP Section 806.04(d): "Once a generic claim is allowable, all of the claims drawn to species in addition to the elected species which require all the limitations of the generic claim will ordinarily be allowable over the prior art in view of the allowability of the generic claim, since the additional species will depend thereon or otherwise require all of the limitations thereof." Since claims 8-11 are directed to a species of generic claim 1, Applicants request joinder of these claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 12 and 14-15 and Under 35 U.S. C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 12 and 14-15 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,909,314 to Oka. Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 1 renders this rejection moot and Applicants request its withdrawal.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections to the present application have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees or to credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this response to Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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